

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /074 W
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R 061849Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2688

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19681

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, VS, VN

SUBJECT: DRV DIPLOMAT'S REMARKS CONCERNING REUNIFI-
CATION

REF: PARIS 19574

1. WHILE VISAS WERE BEING PREPARED FOR DRV ADVANCE TEAM(REFTEL), VIETNAMESE DIPLOMAT PHA NGAC CON-
VERSED WITH EMBOFF WHO HAD KNOWN NGAC WHEN BOTH WERE INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE ACT D THE INTER-
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET. NGAC DISCUSSED THE NEW CABINET AND STRESSED THE ROLE IN IT OF SOME OF THE
SOUTHERN FIGURES, SUCH AS WITH PHAM HANG (FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER), PHAT (THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINIS-
TER), MADAME BINH (MINISTER OF EDUCATION), AND FORMER PRG NEGOTIATOR HIEN (MINISTER OF CULTURE). HE SAID
THAT PHAM HUNG HAD NO PORTFOLIO, MERELY HAD THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER POSITION. HE ALSO SAID THAT
PHAM HUNG WOULD NO LONGER HAVE ANY SPECIAL ROLE VIS-A-
VIS THE SOUTH "SINCE VIETNAM IS NOW COMPLETELY UNIFIED". PRESENT MINISTRIES WOULD NOW FUNCTION TO
EXERCISE CONTROL OVER ACTIVITIES WITHIN THEIR PURVIEW IN THE SOUTH AS WELL AS IN THE NORTH. THE MINISTRY OF
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INTERIOR WOULD HAVE THE SAME ROLE OVER THE SOUTHERN

PROVINCES AS OVER THE NORTHERN PROVINCES OR OVER THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF SAIGON AS IT DID OVER THOSE OF HANOI AND HAIPHONG.

2. EMBOFF NOTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE, NDRTH AND SOUTH, HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID THAT THERE WERE CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIFFERENCES BETEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH CALLING APPARENTLY FOR A DIFFERENT AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SYSTEM, AT LEAST FOR A TIME. NGAC SAID THIS WAS TRUE BUT THE DIFFERENCES WOULD BE FAIRLY RAPIDLY REDUCED, AND IN THE MEANTIME WOULD BE HANDLED BY PERSONNEL IN THE SAME MINISTRIES. NGAC NOTED THAT ALREADY PERSONNEL WORKING IN PRG MINISTRIES HAD BEEN SENT NORTH TO ASSUME ROLES WITHIN THE UNITED GOVERNMENT. DINH BA THI'S APPEARANCE THIS YEAR IN NEW YORK AS HEAD OF THE UNITED VIETNAM DELEGATION ILLUSTRATED THE USE OF FORMER PRG OFFICIALS ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH DRV OFFICIALS.

2. COMMENT: NGAC'S COMMENTS ARE PERHAPS OF LESS IMPORTANCE AS AN OBJECTIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE FACTS THAN OF THE LINE THE VIETNAMESE CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE. HE WILL BE PRESSMAN IN NEW YORK, AND HAS NO DOUBT BEEN GIVEN A THOROUGH GROUNDING ON THE LINE HE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE CONCERNING THE NEW VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, NATIONAL UNIFICATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS19681
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760260-0800
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760788/aaaacztes.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 19574
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRV DIPLOMAT'S REMARKS CONCERNING REUNIFI- CATION
TAGS: PFOR, US, VS, VN, UN, (PHA NGAC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006